



West Kidlington

Primary & Nursery School

Be kind, give your best!

WEST KIDLINGTON NEWS

Dear Families

This week we celebrated World Book Day (thank you for your support with dressing up) and we were reminded of the wonderful power of stories to spark imagination, build confidence, and nurture creativity in children. Reading and storytelling play a vital role in your child's development, and we were excited to use this occasion to inspire a love of books both in school and at home.

Below are some simple and practical tips to help your child become a storyteller, an illustrator, and an enthusiastic reader.

Tips for Helping Your Child Write Their Own Story

Writing a story can feel like a big task, but breaking it down into small steps can make it fun and manageable for your child.

1. Start with a simple idea

Who is the main character?

Where does the story take place?

What problem does the character need to solve?

Encourage imaginative ideas - a dragon who is afraid of the dark, a superhero who loses their powers, or even a talking pet.

2. Use a clear beginning, middle and end. Beginning: Introduce the character and setting. Middle: Present a problem or adventure. End: Solve the problem and wrap up the story.

3. Add descriptive details. Ask your child: What can the character see, hear, or feel? How does the character feel during the adventure?

4. Celebrate their work. Let them read their story aloud to the family. You could even create a special "author's chair" moment at home!



Important Date

School Garden Open Morning:

Monday 9th March - would you consider coming along and helping for a few hours? Please?

Tips for Becoming an Illustrator



Illustrations bring stories to life and help children express their creativity.

1. Draw the characters. Encourage your child to think about: What does the character look like? What are they wearing? What facial expressions show their feelings?

2. Add background details. The setting helps tell the story - is it a jungle, outer space, a castle, or your own living room?

3. Use colour thoughtfully. Colours can show mood - bright colours for happy scenes, darker shades for mysterious moments.

4. Create a book cover. A title, the author's name (your child!), and an exciting picture make the story feel complete.



Tips to Encourage Reading at Home

Developing a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children.

1. Make reading part of the daily routine. Even 5-10 minutes a day makes a big difference.

2. Let your child choose books. Whether it's comics, fact books, fairy tales, or joke books - choice builds motivation.

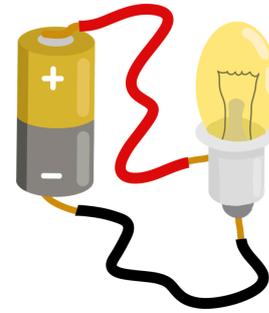
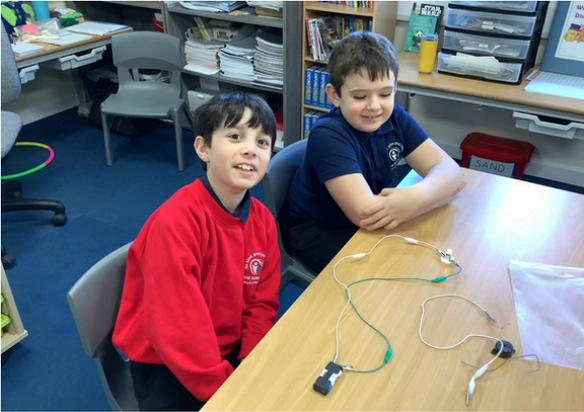
3. Read together. Take turns reading pages or characters. Listening to stories read aloud builds vocabulary and comprehension.

4. Talk about the story. Ask questions like: What was your favourite part? How do you think the character felt? What do you think will happen next?

5. Visit the library. Regular library visits can make reading feel like an exciting adventure.

Curriculum update

"The Woodpeckers had a science lesson on electricity, exploring human circuits to help them build their own series circuits in the classroom. By joining hands, the circuit was completed, allowing the electricity to flow through so the (human) bulb, buzzer, and switch could turn on and off."



We're excited to let you know that we'll soon be switching from ParentPay to Arbor Payments—a simpler, more integrated way to manage your child's school lunches, wraparound care, trips, clubs, and even charitable donations, all in one place.

As outlined in our Charging & Remissions Policy, The White Horse Federation operates a cashless system across the trust. To support this, we will only be accepting online payments exclusively through Arbor Pay. This means the school will no longer be accepting cash and booking lunches for you.

West Kidlington Primary School



Colour Run

Thursday 21st May 2026

Reception - 2:45-3.15pm

Year 1 & 2 - 3:20-3.50pm

Year 3 & 4 - 3:55-4.25pm

Year 5 & 6 - 4:30-5pm

Sponsorship forms, cash (minimum £5) and waivers must be returned to the school office by Monday 11th May 2026 for your child to participate in the event.

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Wednesday 11th March 2026
15:20 - 16.10 or 16:30 - 17:20

Please come and join us for a fun and memorable afternoon celebrating Mum! Children are invited to bring Mum, Nan, Aunt or another special adult to celebrate.

£5 per adult,
includes a cream
tea

Scan the QR code
to book before
Friday 6th March
2026

Family photo taken
upon arrival

£1.50 per child,
includes a drink
and cake or biscuit



Taking place in the
school hall

Grow the Tallest Sunflower!

Sow your seeds with
Our School Garden

Monday 16th March

during break and lunch times, and after school

PRIZES TO BE WON!

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 8TH JUNE

FOODIE WALL ART

COMPETITION

Let your imaginations run wild and win £200 fund for your school and £20 book voucher for **YOU!**

DEADLINE 31ST MARCH

CREATE AN A4 PAGE OF COLOURFUL, FOODIE-INSPIRED LANDSCAPES.

THINK BROCCOLI TREES, BAGUETTE FENCES, OR EVEN CARROT CHIMNEYS – THE MORE CREATIVE, THE BETTER!

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE AND SCHOOL ON THE BACK!

EITHER POST TO HOP HOUSE TN2 4HS OR EMAILED TO INFO@CATERLINKLTD.CO.UK

Good luck



ONLINE SAFETY

IN JUST 4 SIMPLE STEPS

Keeping your child safe online - and knowing what to say no to and what to say yes to - can feel like an impossible task.

So keep it simple with these 4 Rules.

Protect your child from exploitation by strangers, problems with peers, content that harms their mental health, addictive products, violent and sexual content, poor sleep, reduced concentration and disrupted development.

1

NO SMART PHONE UNTIL YOUR CHILD IS 12

Once you give your child a smart phone it is very hard to go back. Once they've got a smart phone it becomes almost impossible to control or monitor how they use it. So keep it simple: no smartphone. If your child really needs a phone you can get them an old fashioned feature phone for about £30.

2

NO SOCIAL MEDIA UNTIL YOUR CHILD IS 16

Social media can be fun, but it can also be addictive and harmful. The social media platforms are not making sure that they are safe for children to use. So the world of social media is full of content that is dangerous or damaging for your minds, from cyberbullying to pornography. So just keep your child off social media.

3

NO YOUTUBE AND NO TIKTOK

The social media rule includes youtube and TikTok. These platforms are designed to be addictive. They weaken your child's ability to concentrate. It is very hard to monitor and supervise them and there is a lot of harmful content on there. Whilst they are kids, there is plenty for them to watch on things like iPlayer and Netflix.

4

NO GROUPS, NO STRANGERS, NO SNAPCHAT

Just because your child is in your house, it does not mean that they are safe from being exploited by adults or upset by other children. So if they use things like Whatsapp, it's family and close friends only. No one that you don't know, no being in big online groups and no deleting messages. And this includes gaming online.

AND REMEMBER...

Don't rely on your child being sensible and honest online to keep them safe.

Yes, we need to teach them to be those things, but it is not fair or realistic to ask young children to operate safely in an online world that is really not set up for them.

Your child will not thank you for these rules. They will tell you that other children don't have these rules.

But those other children are not your responsibility. It is your job to look after your own children.

The majority of parents worry about their children online - some of them decide that saying 'No' is an option. You can be one of those parents.

If using tech devices is making your child sad, anxious or angry then take those devices away from them.

If they are not following your rules then take those devices away from them.

This might not be easy when they are young, but it will be almost impossible as they get older.

Ultimately you are the adult and you have to decide what is best for your child.

HALF EIGHT IS TOO LATE



**HOW MUCH TIME YOUR
CHILD SPENDS ON A
SCREEN IS IMPORTANT**



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